THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government employees who are on deemed deputation to MTNL are drawing Government pay scales. Out of these employees, the non-gazetted staff are being paid additional ad-hoc payment of Rs. 100 p.m. since 1.9.90. Since the case of their absorption in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has not yet been decided, they are not covered by MTNL service condition so far.

[Translation]

Air Crashes Under Investigation

4127. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of aircrashes under investigation at present;

(b) the names thereof;

(c) the number of aircrashes where investigation have been completed so far; and

(d) the time by which the ongoing investigations are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Of the 8 accidents to civil registered aircraft which took place during the period from 1st January, 1996 till date, investigations of 3 have been completed and following 5 are under investigation :-

(1) Accident of M.P. Government Chetak hilicopter near Bhopal on 25.8.1996.

(2) Accident of Ahmedabad Aviation Academy Cessna 152 aircraft at Ahmedabad on 5.11.1996.

(3) Mid air collision between Saudia B-747 aircraft and Kazakhstan IL-76 aircraft near Charkhi Dadri on 12.11.1996.

(4) Accident of Blue Dart B-737 aircraft at Bangalore on 28.12.1996.

(5) Accident of Kerala Aviation Cessna 152 aircraft at Bangalore on 22.2.1997.

(d) It is not possible to give the time by which these investigations will be completed, at this stage.

Encroachment of Railway Land

4128. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale encroachment on the land belonging to South Central Railway in Guller Haveli Bider, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the above railways land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At Guller Haveli Bider, triangluar track used to exist for turning of Steam Engines. After dieselisation, this facility was not required. So, the track was dismantled.

In 1984, some encroachments were noticed. Railway took immediate steps to protect the land by constructing Boundary Wall. The encroachers filed a suit in the Court against the Railways and got interim stay.

(c) The Railway has taken action for conducting joint survey alongwith Revenue department to demarcate Railway boundary.

[English]

International Flights from Trivandrum Airport

4129. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of international flights originating from Trivandrum airport;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of flights from this airport in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 56 international flights are being operated from Trivandrum Airport per week at present.

(b) and (c) Decision to operate additional flights are taken by the concerned airlines based on their commercial judgement, depending on traffic requirements, availability of aircraft capacity etc.

Facilities withdrawn for Ex-MPs in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains

4130. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that facilities for Ex-MPs to travel in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains have been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to restore these facilities for Ex-MPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The facilities available to Ex-MPs for travel by Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains on the authority of Complimentary Card Passes were withdrawn on 22.01.1997. They have since been restored on 21.02.1997.